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ISE: graduate employers respond to Migration Advisory Committee report on international students

Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive of the [Institute of Student Employers](#), responds to the publication of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) [report](#) on the impacts of international students in the UK.

“As the UK’s leading independent voice for student employers, our vision is that the success of every business is maximised by full access to student talent, so the arrival of the MAC report which recommends that international students in the UK should not be removed from targets to reduce migration comes somewhat as a disappointment.

“International students do not take a significant proportion of graduate jobs, our annual recruitment survey shows that an average of 5% of graduate hires are from the European Economic Area and 3% from the rest of the world. What they do is fill skills gaps that make our businesses more globally competitive.

“The costs of visas and the complexity of the process means that employers only pursue visas where there is a genuine need, so any concerns that foreign students may take our jobs are unfounded.

“Surely in a post Brexit world we want our campuses to be internationally competitive. Canadian, American and Australian universities are able to out compete their UK counterparts.

“At a time when UK Plc. could do with the income, turning away international students who pay substantial fees and contribute to local economies doesn’t make financial sense.

“This issue has been a running sore for a number of years now, so one can only assume that the government, through the Migration Advisory Committee, are wedded to an approach that ignores both common sense and the breadth of opportunity international students bring to the UK.”

Ends

Media enquiries

Clare Tregaskis, ISE press officer, clare@ise.org.uk, 07792 429227

Notes to editors

About the Institute of Student Employers

The Institute of Student Employers (ISE), [formerly the Association of Graduate Recruiters \(AGR\)](#), is an independent, not-for-profit member organisation that was established in 1968.

As the UK's leading independent voice for student employers, the ISE's vision is that the success of every business is maximised by full access to student talent.

The ISE achieves this by bringing together employers, the education sector and supplier partners, providing leadership and support in all aspects of student recruitment and development. ISE activities include:

- Promoting excellence and innovation in the resourcing, assessment and development of emerging talent including school leavers, apprentices and graduates
- Providing expert information and insight to ISE member organisations, creating engaged communities for professional networking and sharing of best practice
- Delivering comprehensive research on a range of issues affecting graduate, intern and apprenticeship recruitment and development, including current and future trends and benchmarking data
- Investing in the professional development of members to enhance their skills and knowledge, maximising their career opportunities within the profession
- Influencing key policy areas affecting student employment and the education sector
- Building a strong professional organisation with the right structure and team capabilities to deliver the services and support members require to fulfil their objectives

For further information:

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